

RAKUGO IN ENGLISH!

starring

Shijaku Katsura

Sunday, June 2, 1996, 2 pm
Kennedy Theatre

Presented by:
Summer Session and the
Department of Theatre and Dance,
College of Arts and Humanities,
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.

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Japanese Government,
HOE International and the Beicho Office.

PROGRAM

WONDERFUL JAPAN

Kazutomo Maeda

WHITE LION

Shijaku Katsura

THIS IS RAKUGO

Shijaku Katsura & Masaaki Yamamoto

INTERMISSION

MY FAVORITE

Bill Crowley

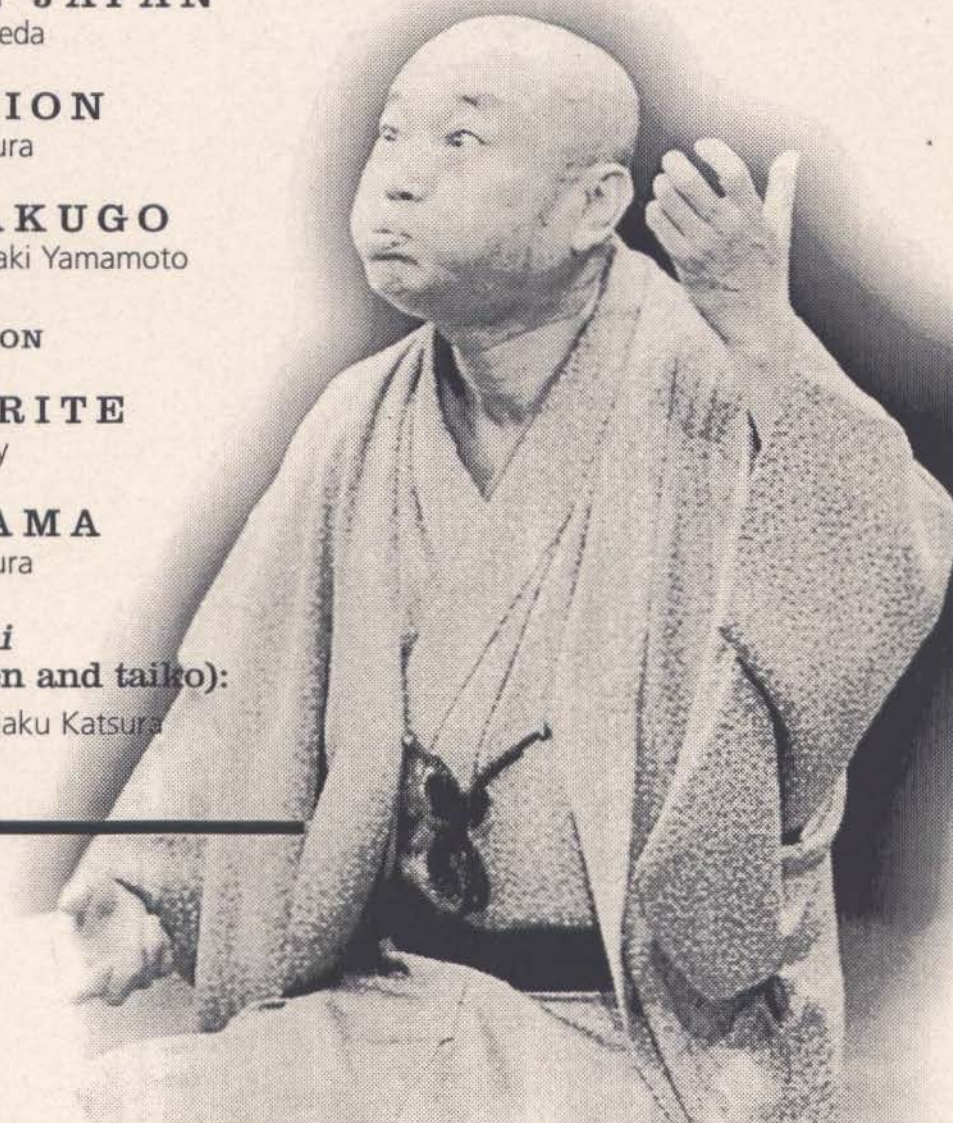
ATAGOYAMA

Shijaku Katsura

Ohayashi

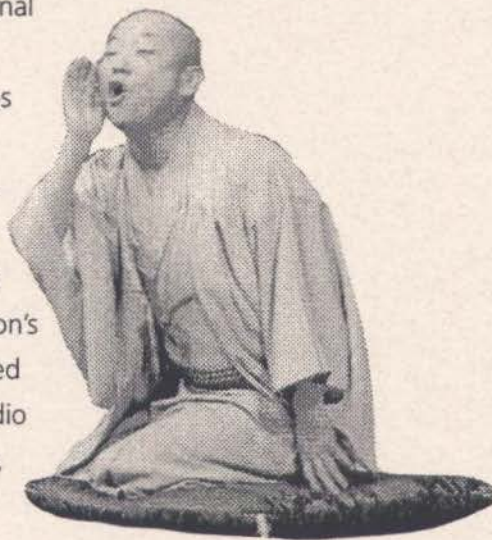
(musicians—shamisen and taiko):

Shidai Katsura and Kujaku Katsura



ABOUT THE PERFORMERS

Shijaku Katsura, born in Hyōgo Prefecture, began studying under Beicho Katsura in 1961, and made his public debut the following year in Osaka. In 1973, he assumed the stage name of the second Shijaku Katsura. Shijaku has taken the Osaka Rakugo tradition to a new level of hilarity and received the title "King of Roaring Laughter." His style is characterized by unique vocal expressions and exaggerated gestures, creating a blend of art and personality that has created a large following of both young and old. His interest in conversational English led him to the birth of English rakugo, and the first rakugo performances outside of Japan. Since then, Shijaku has performed in numerous countries, including a performance in Honolulu several years ago. Shijaku has received numerous awards, including the Minister of Education's Art Encouragement Prize. He has published several books, and has released many audio and video recordings of his performances, some in English.



Bill Crowley was born in the U.S. prefecture of Rhode Island and graduated from Stanford. He is a Seoul Olympic candidate for the 1500 meter track and field event. He became interested in Shijaku's performance in San Francisco in 1990, went to Japan in 1992, and actively performs rakugo in Japan and overseas.

Kazutomo Maeda is Shijaku Katsura's oldest son, and received instruction in rakugo since early childhood, performing in Sankei Hall at age 8. Rather than going to college, he pursued his interests in music and acting. He is currently a member of Shosatsu Gundan Rinpat Army, led by Ramo Nakajima. He accompanies every overseas English Rakugo performance tour, and presents the act that opens the program.

Masaaki Yamamoto was born in Osaka Prefecture, and is President of H.O.E. International. He is the mastermind behind *Rakugo in English*, and organized Shijaku Katsura's first English performance in Osaka. He also serves as the emcee of the performances in English.



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